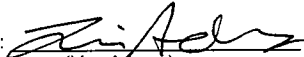


I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being transmitted via the Office electronic filing system in accordance with § 1.6(a)(4).

Dated: Sept. 25, 2007

Signature:

  
(Lisa Adams)

Docket No.: 101896-242  
(DEP5294)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Mark C. Boomer et al.

Application No.: 10/709,246

Confirmation No.: 3245

Filed: April 23, 2004

Art Unit: 3733

For: SPINAL IMPLANT CONNECTORS

Examiner: M. C. Hoffman

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 18, 2007, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Abstract** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 7 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 8 of this paper.